

**SCIP-supported Youth Farmer Clubs contribute to the economic strengthening of graduated members (including former OVCs) in Nacala Velha, Nampula province**



*YFC graduates watering green onion.*

on the outskirts of the Mueria mission.

With the support of a SCIP technician, in March 2013 the group began preparing one hectare of land: loosening the soil, plowing and harrowing. The group planted and produced various vegetables, including onion, carrot, tomato, cabbage, cucumber, okra, lettuce and peppers. The group earned a total of 7,000 meticaís (\$234) from the sale of their vegetables in local communities and in the main market of Nacala Velha.

José Rafael Ali is the monitor working with YFCs in this region as well as supporting this group of YFC graduates. He shared that the funds raised from this activity were used to purchase a water pump that will assist the group in watering their crops. According to Ali, “This project has been very good for us. We see that our lives have improved compared to before, we have had good returns following the lessons we learned from the SCIP staff. This field that we are working in now will serve as a model for those who are still in YFCs”.



*YFC graduates weeding sweet potato seedlings.*



*Harvesting lettuce from the field.*

Due to the favorable agri-ecological conditions and the previous success of the group, the YFC graduates were selected as a multiplier of orange-pulp sweet potatoes, a SCIP strategy for economic strengthening for OVCs. The group received 300 kg of sweet potatoes, from which they sowed six beds, each 14 meters long. From these beds, sweet potato runners were provided to six additional multipliers and six OVC families over a four month period.

This group exemplifies the great potential that YFC graduates have following their experience in YFCs, where they utilize what they have learned and turn the skills into real profits.